

HOLIDAYS 2020

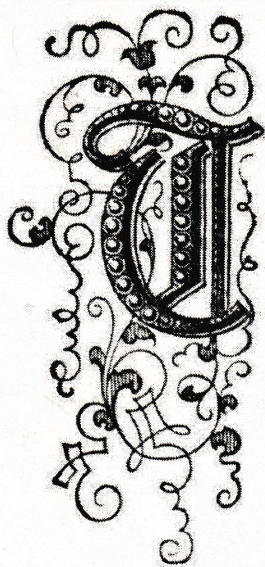
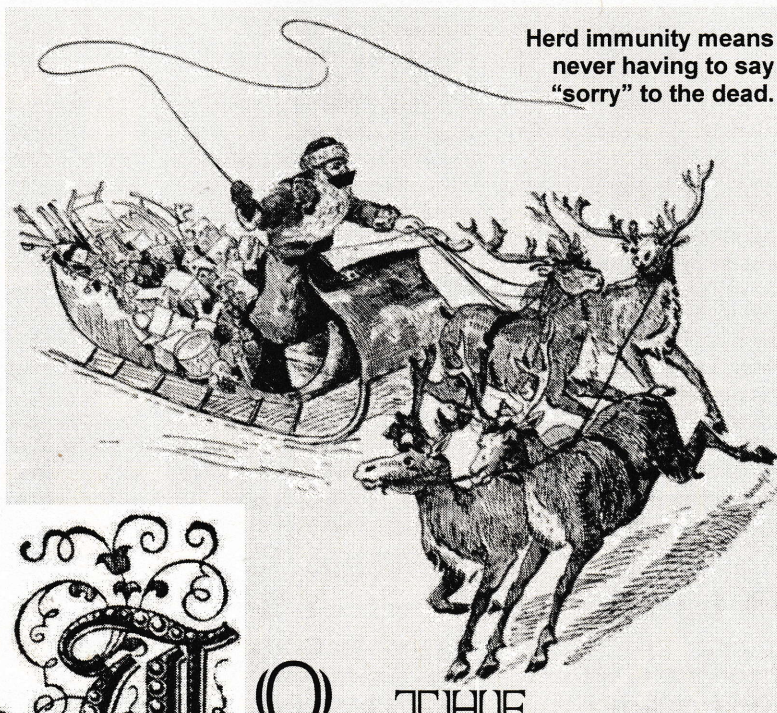
F
L
A
G
T
H

P
L
U
T
O
C
R
A
C
Y

Politicians

Voters

PRIVY HUNTERS, UNITE!



THE

GENERAL READERSHIP

Did the relatives move into your plague-free zone for a longer than expected stay over the holiday? The crazy uncle who breaks wind at the dining table without missing a beat defending Trump, while praising flatulent Rudy Guiliani. Remember the cable cutting neighbor with the "Make Liberals Cry" yard sign, addicted to NewsMax and QAnon railing on

"Stealing the Vote" from across the cul-del-sac?

Give them a gift that keeps on giving after the mirthful mixing remains a painful memory. Have them listen to Radio Free Kansas, or better yet, 10 irregular incendiary mailings of the "Damn Jackass" and Discomfit Magazine for \$20 bucks. Examine herein what readers have to say of these publications printed from our 103 year old rundown farmhouse. What is a "Round Robin" letter? (See page 7.) An election campaign for a little office in Topeka. (See page 14.) We're ready!

LETTERS DISCOMFIT



HISTORY & HUMOR — OUR BEST WEAPONS

April 24, 2020

*(Handwritten, generic
white ruled stationary)*

Mike,

Enclosed find a subscription order. I don't necessarily agree with all your outrageous and crass expressions. Perhaps they are meant to get attention, but they also turn people away with the apparent craziness -- Like calling yourself and/or publication "Jack-Ass." [cf. Lucifer] It amuses me, but it tends to make me think you're either an entertainer or a crazy person I'd rather not be associated with.

Still, I respect your right of free speech, and much you sent in your mailing was interesting.

Your last letter to the Vindicator came out of no context, so when I saw it, I passed it over as a writing of a frustrated bipolar politician who'd lost his marbles and was simply ranting.

Reading the same letter in your mailing, however, made more sense to me, as someone

(me) trying to fit history with the present.

Anyway, I appreciate your wife's letter on COVID19 because it was so opposite the panic and unfounded musings of the "leader" and the press.

(She gives you credibility!)

Currently, I'm reading Sara Kendzior's Hiding in Plain Sight. Excellent! (Recommended if you're not familiar.)

Also, I recommend some interviews on line with Thomas Frank. (I haven't read his books, but I'm sure they're perceptive.)

So here's \$20 for helping to save a local print medium. Keep on supporting the Vindicator.

Name Withheld
Valley Falls, KS

**DISCOMFIT DEADLINE
INAUGURATION DAY, 2021
SPECIAL EDITION
CALL FOR ARTICLES
PRIVATE SUBSCRIPTIONS
LIMITED DISTRIBUTION
RADIO FREE KANSAS
BOX 14, VALLEY FALLS, KS 66088**

MDC replies — *Let's start here, on this leveling point of science as it stands. The children you see today in our towns at least their children's children will most likely be living as illegal immigrants in mud and stick huts somewhere in Northern Canada. It has been a frustrating experience to witness local leaders too terrified to lead. They seem afraid of the most conservative, stubbornly stupid among us.*

Those unfamiliar with the county should know that dozens of elected offices are held unopposed each election cycle and remain in the hands of a deeply entrenched Republican majority.

Note to the Letter Writer: Be assured I will work on using nuance and metaphors in a more civil
(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)
lized fashion. My nature has hardened with age and the recent setbacks made since the 2016 elections against social democracy in the U.S.

I own and continue to study 3 books by Kansan Thomas Frank. No, you can't borrow them.

A clarification box has been inserted in several installments reading:

"WHY DAMN JACKASS"

During the summer of 2016 campaign ... my 1967 Ford truck broke down in the middle of Broadway St., Valley Falls, KS at Mark and Sons reliable repair shop. A woman in a late model luxury car stopped to take phone photos. She was soon joined by another in a country squire type station wagon to look at the large Impeach Brownback banner. I heard the first woman refer to me as a "damn jackass" and, "see they want to take our guns."

A variance of the above will be included in all future installments of the "Damn Jackass" pamphlets.

I am not alone thinking most Kansans lost their "marbles" after a century long GOP choke hold on the state. I declared it brain dead once the place was re-named "Brownbackistan". A substantial number of survivors who left the place have went on to infamy.

Some claim Kansas was founded by East Coast grifters, "Free Men, Free Soil, Free State" as a dumping ground for desperate immigrants too broke to go on, gun slinging bullies the locals hired for protection till the killers moved on west, and no shortage of holier-than-thou theocrats. Dear Old Kansas has slogged on through history as a bastion for tax dodgers, all alleged god-fearing cranky members of the FIRE (finance, insurance, and real estate) monopolies.

I consider the notables from here in the county

who rebelled, or achieved a populist notoriety, those like Moses Harmon, John Stuart Curry, William Butler Pardee and the "Grim Chieftain" Jim Lane all sketchy citizens of Jefferson County who were either scolded to suicide, forced into exile, jailed or driven insane as more worthy of my study time.

Genealogical monuments still seem to regularly pop up in tribute to family members of the local kulaks. One hauled from dozens of miles away an abandoned church steeple to create a "chapel" on top of what appears to be a Native burial mound on his property. This spiritual vanity is visible from a popular highway to the Topeka state capitol.

MISCHIEVOUS MOSES

I am convinced after reading a large sampling of "Lucifer" issues mailed from Valley Falls during the 1880s that old mischievous Moses changed the name of the Liberal Club's newspaper to create a reader driven medium that grew the subscriber base with a national debate of issues. Having years earlier lost both wife and child while home birthing in Missouri, old Moses had a hankering to let the women and doctors publish their discussions and grievances in public.

Harmon wrote of cowardly lynch notes slipped into his newspaper office. Reactionaries haven't

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)
changed. Why would they
in Kansas? It has been
beaten into whole genera-
tions as, "the buckle of the
Bible belt." A safe space
for bullies.

Deplorable upwardly
craven Jefferson County
misogynistic women and
men framed Harmon for
violations of postal regula-
tions in printing a simple
letter that caused the
"horse penis" scandal.

Through the thick prose
of the period I read letters
from writers across the
country, usually women,
complaining of being raped
by their husbands, unable
to find justice in divorce
courts, and deprived of
their human right to vote.

Jail, multiple bail bond
hearings, ending in a total
of a decade in prisons,
ending most famously
breaking rocks in Jolliet, Il.
He was eventually released
at over seventy years old to
die in Los Angeles a couple
years later. Yet — little is
mentioned of him and
others who spent a consid-
erable time in Jefferson
County.

Harmon remains as one
of the important libertari-
ans to come from Kansas,
eclipsing Wichita's wan-

nabe philosopher and bil-
lionaire Charles "Chuckie"
Koch.

ALL BROKEN LIVES?

When I was put on the
chase to Moses and
"Lucifer" it was internet
sleuth work.

However, the discovery
of a local from Jefferson
County's McLouth, Ks., a
national officer of the
rebellling (circa 1880s)
Farmer's Alliance, found-
ing member of the Kansas
People's Party who later
openly supported the So-
cialist Party in 1903 at 70
years old, well, for *Discom-
fit* magazine this discovery
became pure "historical
joy."

He who stayed to fight,
J. F. Willits, a founder of
Union Township, just
outside Oskaloosa in 1869,
is evidence of at least one
critical thinker here. His
1903 letter reprinted from
the *Appeal to Reason* in
Discomfit was a rare gem
to you. I hope you appreci-
ate it and will inform me of
other Radical Republicans,
populists, and the 40
shades of Reds from this
area. The Republicans
today desirous of lynching
each other over Trump and
stopping "socialism and

anarchy" need reminded of
their ancestor's political
leanings. I venture many
have Reds of some freeze
dried flavor in their family
backgrounds. Let me
know, I will respect your
confidentiality. Hopefully
the surviving relatives
won't become homicidal
maniacs once their ances-
tral "sins" are disclosed.
It's happened before.

WANTED: LEAVENWORTH VICTORIAN MANSIONS

I now understand why my
world—class brother once
described the feeling of
"historical joy" upon find-
ing shards of colored glass,
coins, broken empty bot-
tles of opiate and booze
based medicines, or rare
finds of mason jars with
rotted currency, both Un-
ion and Confederate. I
take this last as proof, then
as now, Kansans are a
stingy, but betting lot.

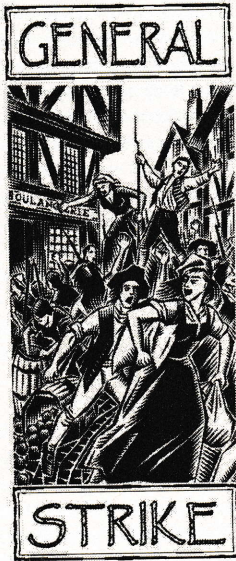
The brother, clad in sa-
fari summer drab complete
with pith helmet, has
knocked on doors of the
oldest Leavenworth man-
sions asking the current
owner's permission to
locate in their ancient
backyards where the out-
houses once stood.

The officious wardrobe
alongside a metal detector,
a shovel, and a buddy with
a long spike, created
enough seriousness to
impress upon the 21st cen-
tury poseurs occupying the
Victorian landmark to take
charge of history and their
buried backyard treasure!
Seldom refused his digs,

(Continued on page 6)



unacy abounds
as Calamity in
Plagues, Riots
and Elections.



(Continued from page 5) that sometime multiply in single yards, as holes geometrically laid with Masonic wisdom of guiding which direction to drag the outbuilding.

"No doubt laid," he mutters to the owners gazing over the holes, "in ancient magical patterns across this very parcel." This was enough to cause the eyes to bulge, gasps of fascination for the easily distracted and heavily mortgaged owners.

Allowed the first strike into this most private area our Privy Hunter turned archaeologist would thrust his steel "feeling" rod into the ground lean a keen ear to those rare grating noises. Landowners struck with the rarity of the moment would exclaim at his determination of glass, coal, or metal, and of course a hint of treasure

beneath their manicured chemical grass.

Once the digging began the easily bored landowners leave the site for a phone call or an appointment with another specialist; a deal of much larger importance.

Then the attack on holy ground ensued with all the enthusiasm of drunk Irish Resurrectionists.

KANSANS FOR LIFE, DEAD PLANET PLUTOCRATS

Of course, to understand just how few Kansans it takes to screw up the country look at who moved from Kansas for Trump's jobs: his holiness Sam Brownback, West Point tank commander Mike Pompeo, and Rep. Ron Estes (4th District) who arrived first appointed to replace office swapping Mike Pompeo. Estes was fresh from scandalizing his Berniecrat opponent with fake news ads.

Read more at:
<https://tinyurl.com/y4gvkz3s>

Estes will be joined at the House of Representatives Jan. 3, 2021 by the next generation of GOP grifters young Jake LaTurner (2nd District—elect) both Jake and Ron held successive terms as state treasurers. Both were locked in and tapped with RNC and KRP Pac funds in the 2017 Trump shuffle. Mike Pompeo, like Brownback were moved into Trump's gilded swamp hole. News stories

have surfaced of plague infested super-spread holiday parties by Pompeo on the 8th floor of the State Department, allegedly held at large expense to taxpayers and non-profit charities. Newsmax reports he may consider running for president in 2024.

Thank you for the subscription to the mailings. I hope you get your \$20 worth.

Aug. 11, 2020

(RFK "Round Robin" envelope containing sXX with Discomfit subscription card. Handwritten on attached yellow post-it note.)

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

Send a gift subscription to someone who might also enjoy. Good luck 11 - 3.

Marvin
Denver, CO

MDC replies — Marvin!

Your card is full of the mailings sent to you over the years. I keep a rough record on 3 X 5 index cards under lock and key and your card is crammed with scribbled mailing date codes. You have been with us since the hundreds answered Katha Pollitt's call for support in *The Nation* magazine. Her and so many others, like yourself saved our first and only home and the dire financial condition we were in as the brunt of the State of Brownbackistan came down on us. I promise to not waste the extra sub on another dumbass conservative Kansan, there are many of them. Again, thank you.

Aug. 15, 2020

(Handwritten postcard,
both sides)

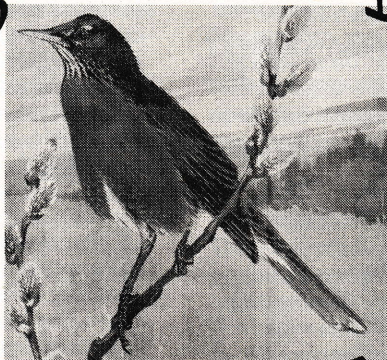
Dear Mike,

I thought about you and your family the other day when I was cleaning out my office!

I have been working from home since March, and there is no news of when we might return, and with what seems to be a long term pandemic cycle. I have neglected

(Continued on page 13)

ROUND



ROBIN

Fifty-five years ago during a holiday in a small Kansas kitchen my grandmother held a bulging envelope full of colored scraps of paper with handwritten messages. She spread them on the table for me to read. Far off relatives, old pals passed along news of deaths, births, jobs found and lost — hardship and joy. Secrets were being shared through my very young rough and slow reading of the scribbled words to her. One note finished, she shared a story of the writer to me. So on it went while she cooked and cleaned all day into evening preparing food. Her letter found was pulled and replaced with a new one to be mailed with all the next day. She called it a “Round Robin” taking months for a full circle of familiars to become familiar once again from all across the land. Read on friends, comrades nothing can stop “solidarity.” — MDC

Country Life Magazine, U.K., Comment & Opinion, Dec. 13, 2016

IN DEFENSE OF ROUND-ROBIN LETTERS:
BOASTFUL, DELUSIONAL, UNINTENTION-
ALLY HILARIOUS

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Country Life staff

writes: *The smugness and often staggering insensitivity of the Christmas round-robin letter is enough to drive one to drink, but Kit Hesketh-Harvey says their awfulness adds to festive amusement.*

Christmas is coming and the robin's getting fat. Not, alas, the cheery little fellow on the Christmas card, but the newsletter contained therein. Brace yourselves for seasonal blizzards, not of snow, but of round-robin letters.

Self-deluding? Boastful? Solipsistic? Prolix? Or, if one is lucky, containing tidings of — quite unintentional — comic joy? It was bad enough receiving cards personalised with a photograph of the sender's family wearing identical snowflake jumpers and grinning like Tony Blair in front of the new country house/yacht/chalet/Fourth Of June picnic, but there was at least fun to be had in deciding which of their teenagers bore the most telling expression of quiet desperation.

It's worse now. Unless you're alert enough to shake the card out directly over the recycling bin (much as one does in order to rid the Sunday papers of junk), you are as likely as not to be engulfed in an avalanche of unwanted, unintelligible information.

One woman of my acquaintance opened a card that shrieked 'Have The Best Christmas Ever'. Inside, a chirrupy report crowed over a dizzyingly successful twelvemonth: the holiday in Bali, the selfless charity work, the sun-drenched golden-wedding anniversary celebration.

Its author concluded with the hope that her recipient had had just as lovely a year. The recipient had been widowed a month previously. And the sender had attended the funeral.

I blame the Kardashians. To them, and to Robin, I would say: just don't. Nobody cares that your child is on its gap year in Vietnam (everybody's child is on its gap year in Vietnam). And who are all these people name-checked so blithely? 'Dave and Frances spent a weekend in Droitwich and, luckily,

Angus was on hand to give Frances a lift in his new Audi back to Littlehampton to see the boys.' What boys? How fascinating is an Audi? Where is a kitchen knife in order that I might open my veins?

Robin, you risk a deadly response. Lynn Truss presented a radio series of possible comebacks for the exasperated. Reply, she suggested, along the following lines: 'Fortunately, the people who bought my burned-out flat from the receivers have been very kind about forwarding the occasional post to my B&B. Hearing your happy news about your wonderful family with its wonderful successes once a year is just about the only thing keeping me going! But that's why you send them, isn't it?

'Bless you. I feel I know you all so intimately, thanks to your lifeline newsletters—even though we last actually saw each other 20 years ago and (let's be honest) hardly knew each other, even then! PS: Please excuse the damp patches on this letter. They are only the marks of my tears.'

"A chirrupy report crowed over a dizzyingly successful twelvemonth: the holiday in

Bali, the selfless charity work, the sun-drenched golden-wedding anniversary celebration. Its author concluded with the hope that her recipient had had just as lovely a year. The recipient had been widowed a month previously. And the sender had attended the funeral."

Should the writer not take the hint and desist, Miss Truss suggests a sterner line. 'As a former inspector at the Inland Revenue, I noticed that, under the heading "June", you admit to a "windfall" from a "mad aunt" and make several unwise admissions concerning your decision not to declare it, but to spend it all on a new kitchen. I am bound to inform you that I have forwarded it to the relevant authorities.'

We are all busy people. Should you ask a fellow human being to spend time in private communication, then that communication should be meaningful and relevant. One-size-fits-all-and-press-send is simply bad manners. On the assumption that not all Country Life readers will be acquainted with The Guardian, I respectfully draw your attention to the great Simon Hoggart's col-

lection of Christmas letters, sent gleefully in to that newspaper.

How can one fail to rejoice in the smugness of, for example: 'We had a fleeting, but memorable breakfast at Heathrow as Isobel flew out and Holly flew in. Memorable because we had with us Holly's GCSE results: five As and five A*s. Celebrating at Heathrow is not

our usual style, but we managed pretty well!'

He skewers, too, the trivial banality of their content. 'Mr Snugglekins, our cat, has kept us on our toes. He has learned how to open the door of our new large fridge.'

Is there any upside to these missives? Their relentlessly chipper tone does remind

(Continued on page 10)

Defining "Round-robin"

Merriam-Webster Dictionary [online]

- [1] a: a written petition, memorial, or protest to which the signatures are affixed in a circle so as not to indicate who signed first;
- b: a statement signed by several persons;
- c: something (such as a letter) sent in turn to the members of a group each of whom signs and forwards it sometimes after adding comment.

Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary

Second Edition, 1983, Dorset & Baber, Cleveland, OH. p. 1579 [subset under "round"]

round robin; (a) a document, as a petition, protest, etc., with the signatures written in a circle to conceal the order of signing; (b) a contest or tournament, as in tennis, chess, etc., in which every entrant is matched with every other one.

(Continued from page 9)
us that we are a nation of stiff-uppers. 'After a long illness, which she bore with little complaint, Mum died in November. We are now proud owners of a drop-leaf dining table. Any offers?'

And one is forced to applaud the manner in which family archivists manage to keep track. They slipped a disc back in February. I'm pushed to remember what I was doing last Tuesday.

Oh, heck. Goodwill to all men, I suppose, even Robin. He's worried, after all. Circulation is falling relentlessly. Too many of his correspondents seem to have moved house and failed to leave a forwarding address. However we may resent being made to waste attention upon pet funerals, Duke of Edinburgh awards or meteorological conditions in Dumfries, perhaps we really would miss these letters?

Lord knows who Jimbo and Trunch might be or how life-changing it was for them to swim with turtles on their honeymoon, but, without them, what would we do for conversation with the grimmer relations when they pitch

up on Christmas Eve? We would have to go back to giggling at Which Is The Naffest Christmas Card?

And in the end, and in fairness, the whole sheaf of drivel is no more tedious or vain-glorious than Facebook.

Kit Hesketh-Harvey

BETTER

EVALUATIONS.ORG

ROUND ROBIN

The "Round robin" option is a technique for generating and developing ideas in a group brainstorming setting. It relies on an iterative process building off consecutive contributions by each participants, conducted in either written or verbal variations.

The basic structure of a Round robin session begins with a central theme, question, or issue which the facilitator identifies for discussion. Arranged in a circle, participants begin by considering the question. One partici-

pant is selected to lead off the process by offering a single thought or reaction, either out-loud or on a piece of paper/index card. In a verbal format, the rest of the participants remain quiet during his or her answer. Once this first participant is finished contributing, the participant sitting directly to his or her right contributes an additional point, idea, or thought. Working clockwise around the circle, each participant either speaks or writes a single idea - ideally one which has not yet been mentioned - until a full circle has been completed or the time reserved for the exercise has passed. During this period, the facilitator records insights and central points raised. The session then concludes with a group discussion.

Round robin brainstorming has the distinct advantage of encouraging contributions from all participants, including those who typically remain

silent It also provides each participant an equal opportunity to voice their thoughts, and a space to present their ideas without undue influence by potentially overly-assertive or vocal individuals. Keep in mind, however, that this is not an anonymous process – a skilled facilitator will have to make an effort to build a climate of trust, or else participants may feel shy about speaking out or knowing that the person next to them will be reading their idea.

WIKIPEDIA

ROUND ROBIN LETTER

SPANISH - AMERICAN WAR

The Round-Robin Letter is the name of an incident in the United States Army that occurred between July 28 and August 3, 1898, during the Spanish-American War. After disease incapacitated

thousands of Army soldiers in the wake of the Siege of Santiago, high-ranking officers of Fifth Army Corps drafted a round-robin letter demanding that the unit be sent back to the United States. Public release of the letter embarrassed the U.S. government.

By July 28, 1898, malaria and yellow fever were rife among U.S. Army troops garrisoned near Santiago de Cuba on the island of Cuba. Fifth Corps, to which the Rough Riders was attached, had 4,270 men seriously ill (and dying), and corps commanders feared the unit could be wiped out if it stayed in Cuba. [1] The McKinley administration, however, planned to keep the corps in Cuba until peace negotiations with Spain concluded. Public opinion was also against bringing home an army infected with yellow fever.[2]

Several senior officers met with Major General William R.

Shafter, commander of Fifth Corps, and unanimously asked that the corps be withdrawn to the United States.[2] It is unclear whether Shafter agreed and asked for this in writing, or whether Shafter disagreed and the corps commanders decided to put their request in writing. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt (commander of the First Volunteer US Cavalry Rough Riders), the only non-general officer of the group, was asked by the rest of the group to draft a round-robin letter outlining the problems with living conditions and disease to send to Army Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The letter would also be deliberately leaked to the press.[1]

As a volunteer, Roosevelt's career would not be at stake in the way a regular army officer's would be by the communication. [3] (Some sources say there is doubt that Roosevelt was the author,[4] while others

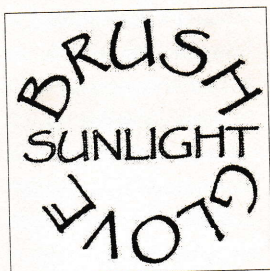
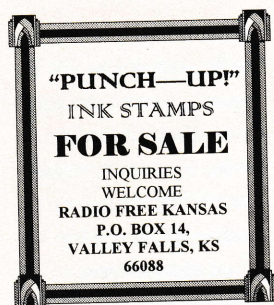
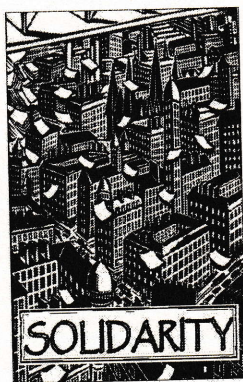
(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)
say that Roosevelt was only the author of the abridged letter.[3] Nine generals and Roosevelt signed the letter. [4] An abridged version was given to Shafter to present to the United States Secretary of War.[1] Shafter declined to do so, but did communicate with his superiors about what was happening.[4]

The letter was deliberately leaked to Associated Press correspondents at corps headquarters, who cabled it to the U.S., where it was published nationwide. Publication of the round-robin letter turned public opinion against the War Department.[4]

The McKinley administration was outraged by the leak of the round-robin letter, but quickly realized that the public would blame the government. The administration acted swiftly to try to defuse the situation. On July 28, Secretary of War Russell A. Al-

ger cabled Shafter and ordered Fifth Corps home to Camp Wikoff on Long Island, New York, for quarantine and mustering out. On August 3, the day before the letter appeared in the press, Alger ordered construction of barracks at Camp Wikoff to begin and for United States Navy ships to head to Cuba to retrieve Fifth Corps. The first units departed on August 7.[1] Alger claimed that the round-robin letter did not accelerate administration plans to repatriate the corps. This appears disingenuous, however, as Alger had long asserted that naval ships were unavailable to bring the troops home.



A sample sheet of images and prices will be placed in future mailings.

LETTERS

(Continued from page 7)

the clutter in my home office. Among the treasures I unearthed were the writings of yourself. So I was compelled to write and see how you were doing.

So how are you?

Life here is good. The winter was longer than I expected, so the summer was welcome, and I am now looking forward to the fall, although the heat of the summer has not been so oppressive. I love the Fall the best because it was when I first came to the University of Kansas, and when I first met the true thinkers I have modeled my life after.

It was also the first time I was free and single and unbridled by any obligation to the military. I am always grateful and glad to see the leaves turn, and feel the cold air on my face. I also like the chance to shoot a pheasant or two, or a sack full of quail now and again. But that's another story. All said, I hope you are having a wonderful summer, and that you feel as good as I do about the fall. November will be VERY exciting!

Are you running for public office? I always kind of hope you will because I see very few people addressing your issues in the public realm, and I value your unique perspective.

Please feel free to send more political journalism, and let me know if I need to subscribe or pay for postage, and gladly will.

Regards,
RK2
Jeff City, MO

MDC reply — *Our plague bubble is big, the Ten Acres surrounded by somewhere near a thousand of corn and soy fields makes for a clear space. Healthful outside activity, such as gardening, clearing brush, trimming trees, the fun stuff was spotty, limited to driving the mower around this summer and fall. The campaign sidetracked all that good stuff. I made six day trips to get out the policy palm cards we made "in-house." See them beginning page 19 in this booklet. I've sent along some of the enclosed cards, which according to good friend Dave Lindorff at This Can't Be Happening (dot) net, they "make good bookmarks." See the back part of this holiday booklet to read of this most recent campaign. BTW, Most quail and pheasant have been slaughtered out here. Those who know tend to guard the locations of covey and nests as zealously as their seasonal mushroom spots. Neighboring Leavenworth county thrives with deer.*

Aug. 20, 2020

(Torn partial sheet graph paper — handwritten.)

Michael,

Nice Job. Keep up the good work.

Thanks,
ST
Valley Falls, KS

Aug. 24, 2020

(Neatly handwritten, generic yellow ruled stationery.)

Hey Mike,

This isn't the best timing for me \$\$\$ wise.

Expendable funds shot to hell on moving expenses and son's birthday this month.

So pick up a beer on me and reminisce the glory days - now and then!

Happy to see you reviving "Discomfit!"

I can just envision Dean with that coveted grin of approval, with our best laid plans.

I have merely read a few of the articles at this point. I enjoy the 'historical' outcropping you've dedicated to this first issue. Cohesive in a historical context.

You've created an awesome timeline, replete with art, facts and fiction. I love the "Appeal to Reason" motif, and the parallels for continuing revolutionary efforts.

That's my take.

In solidarity,
for the revolution,
(Continued on page 17)

(The article appeared in the Valley Falls Vindicator and Oskaloosa Independent weekly newspapers, Oct. 15, 2020, pg. 1)

CANDIDATE WOULD LIKE COUNTY TO BE ENERGY INDEPENDENT

by Clarke Davis

Mike Caddell, 65, never voted until after Ronald Reagan left the White House and never belonged to a political party until he ran for office four years ago.

The rural Nortonville man is making another attempt to be the Democrat representative from the 47th District and is opposing incumbent Republican Ron Ellis, Meriden.

Caddell's greatest disdain is for political parties in general.

"John Adams called political parties an abomination and I agree. They poison the system," Caddell said.

However, he notes that getting on the ballot as an Independent is just too difficult. The major parties have made sure of that, he said.

"One of the most difficult things I find when talking with local

folks is making the topic about things we need herein this county without being distracted by the federal and state politics," he said.

The first thing Caddell would like to see local people rally to do is form cooperatives to build solar energy farms. Done on a large basis, the eight or so communities in Jefferson County could help break the local monopoly of one stock-owned power company and make living in Jefferson County less costly than anywhere else.

"What better way would there be to attract young people to live and work in this county?" he asked.

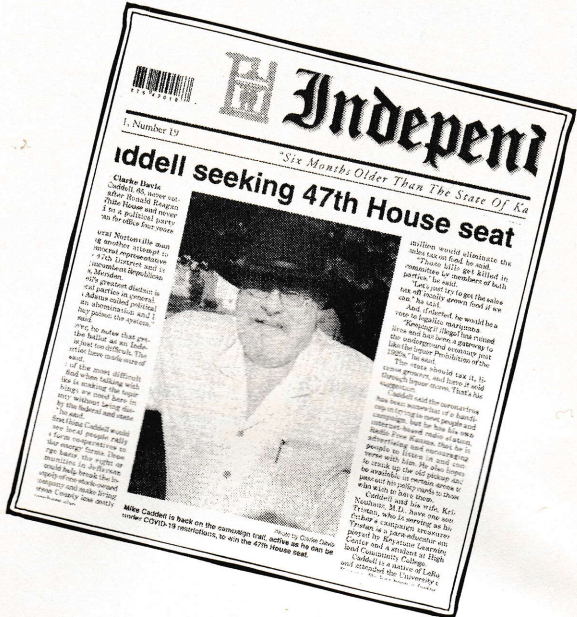
Caddell said he has 27 solar panels on the roof of

his house and has cut his utility bill by 60 percent.

Four years ago he was calling for "food and energy autonomy" in Jefferson County and encouraging wind farms and food co-ops.

The candidate supports universal health care, but that's a federal issue still to be worked out. Locally, he said, the state could help through the expansion of Medicaid to help the one in 10 who have no health insurance in our county.

Some shifting of wealth by adding more tax to those making over \$500,000 and corporations making in excess of \$1 million would eliminate the sales tax on food, he said.



"Those bills get killed in committee by members of both parties," he said.

"Let's just try to get the sales tax off locally grown food if we can," he said.

And, if elected, he would be a vote to legalize marijuana.

"Keeping it illegal has ruined lives and has been a gateway to the underground economy just like the liquor Prohibition of the 1920s," he said.

The state should tax it, license growers, and have it sold through liquor stores. That's his suggestion.

Caddell said the coronavirus has been somewhat of a handicap in trying to meet people and campaign, but he has his own internet-based radio station, Radio Free Kansas, that he is advertising and encouraging people to listen in and converse with him. He also hopes to crank up the old pickup and be available in certain areas to pass out his policy cards to those who wish to have them.

Caddell and his wife, Kris Neuhaus, M.D., have one son, Tristan, who is serving as his father's campaign treasurer. Tristan is a para-educator employed by Keystone Learning Center and a student at Highland Community College.

Caddell is a native of LeRoy and attended the University of Kansas. He has been a factory worker, owned and published newspapers, and a li-

censed private investigator.

"A big problem we have is the FOX vs. MSNBC mentality. Let's have some polite conver-

sation about what we can do here in Jefferson County," he said.



(The article appeared Oct. 22, 2020 in both The Vindicator and The Oskaloosa Independent on pg. 1.)

RON ELLIS SEEKING THIRD TERM

by Clarke Davis

Ron Ellis taught government and history to middle school children for 37 years and believes he would be a better teacher today after working

through four legislative sessions.

"I taught them how it ought to be," he said.

Today he could spice those instructional moments with the inside workings of how things actually get done.

Ellis, 68, Meriden, is on the November ballot seeking his third term in the House of Representatives from the 47th District. The Republican is being opposed by Mike Caddell, a Nortonville Democrat.

The retired teacher has a herd of Charolais cattle and a new bull that tore up part of his barn

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)
while getting used to the place.

"He'll settle down, but I do carry a pitchfork with me," he said.

The legislator is vice chairman of the Veteran Affairs Committee, a member of Health and Human Resources, and on the budget committee for Transportation and Safety, meaning the budgets for the Department of Transportation and the Bureau of Investigation. He serves on an ad hoc committee dealing with palliative care.

None of his committees are currently meeting, but he is always active in the legislative process.

One example is trying to help a local business that wants to sell liquor but cannot get a license because the spouse of the owner is an officer of the law.

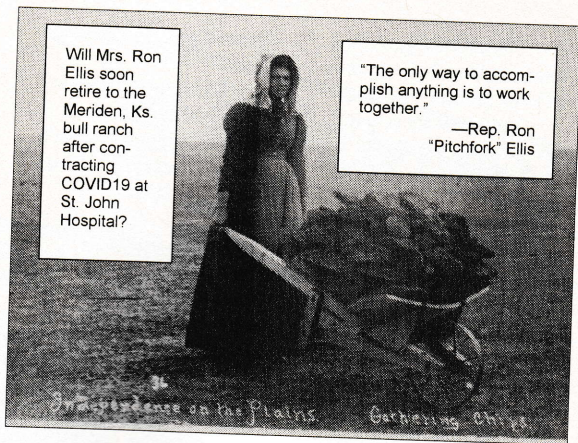
Ellis, a teetotaler, is taking some ribbing as he works this bill through the process.

"The law doesn't make sense and needs to be changed," he said.

Besides this local request he's working with other legislators to bring wind turbines to Elk County -- Ellis' hometown is Fall River; push a request to make polka the state dance; and reroute an electrical line around a person's house in Wichita.

And why would he work on these items?

"Because it's good to have friends, people you can talk to on both sides



of the aisle," he said. "The only way to accomplish anything is to work together."

The number one issue Ellis hears from constituents is high property taxes. From farmers, he hears them complain about the current way land and crops are valued.

He said property taxes are usually more of a local issue. The way farmland is valued was approved a few years back with a constitutional amendment. Ellis is not aware of any pending legislation that would change the current system.

Other issues that are either on his mind or ones that he knows will be back again include the expansion of Medicaid and improvement of broadband. He wants KPERS to be fully funded and he wants the Legislature to stop robbing KDOT of its money.

He has opposed the expansion of Medicaid and said his biggest complaint is the possibility

that those who now have insurance would drop it and go on Medicaid. He notes that broadband is finally going to get some help from the federal government with COVID-19 funds.

Getting back to the classroom, he said he'd tell students how there are rules, and then there are rules. Some bills struggle and fail to get through committee while others seem to magically do so.

"You may also be voting on a bill that has four good things and one really bad thing," he said. "What's one to do?"

When Ellis isn't taking care of his cows and doing something to benefit the Alpha Christian Children's Home near Perry, he's mowing, cutting brush, and trying to improve the historic Newell property at Oskaloosa.

Ron's wife, Paula, is three greats removed from Jesse Newell, who was one of the first settlers and founder of Oskaloosa. The couple is working to

preserve and restore a rock building on the former Newell property that dates back to territorial days.

Paula is administrator of Saint John Hospital in Leavenworth. She had a short bout with the coronavirus but has now had two negative tests. Ron believes he lucked out -- so far.

RESPONSE

Ron, file weekly work reports to the county newspapers when the legislature is in session. At least give the 8000+ "R" voters who check off your name something to read. The rest of us want to know what you do in Topeka. BTW, Polka sucks. Try the Jitterbug for Paula's sake.

LETTERS

(Continued from page 13)

Cherie
Aurora, CO

Postscript: "Fate leads the willing and drags along the reluctant." - Serena

MDC replies — *To readers: she writes, "I can just envision Dean with that coveted grin of approval, with our best laid plans." Dean Milton Goering was co-founder of the original single issue publication of Discomfit in 1988. His untimely death, at age 50,*

was featured in a front page KC Star article. I have included a link to a reprint at:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxe6dhas>

Sept. 3, 2020

(Postcard composed on electric typewriter)

Hi Mike,

Thanks for reminding me that I own a typewriter. I had to go online to download a manual, but I think I have it down now. The card I sent you went out a few days before I received my copy of

(Continued on page 19)

Below ad ran 4 consecutive weeks of October, 2020 in both county papers. 3 columns X 4".

TIME FOR A CHANGE

CALL THE CANDIDATE

646 716 8652

LISTEN ONLINE:

"RADIO FREE KANSAS"

SATURDAY & SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

9 — 10pm

ELECT — HOUSE CANDIDATE — ELECT

MIKE CADDELL

**NEWS, VIEWS & ISSUES
JEFFERSON COUNTY**



CAMPAIGN



CAMPAIGN

PAID POLITICAL AD: MIKE'S CAMPAIGN,
P.O. BOX 14, VALLEY FALLS, KS. 66088
TRISTAN CADDELL, TREASURER

FREESTATE WANTS TO PUT IN SOLAR ARRAY NEAR OSKALOOSA

Oskaloosa Independent and Valley Falls Vindicator

by Rick Nichols

(Some information about the Oct. 19 meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners appeared in last week's issue of the paper. What follows is an account of the rest of the meeting.)

Eric Wylie, engineering manager for FreeState Electric Cooperative, and Chris Parr, FreeState's assistant general manager, appeared before the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners to make it aware of the co-op's plans to enter into a partnership with Arkansas-based Today's Power Inc., to construct a one-megawatt solar array at 5786 US-59 Highway.

Wylie told Commissioners Lynn Luck, Richard Malm and Wayne Ledbetter that FreeState Electric reached an agreement with owner of the property Sept. 23 for its leasing and that Today's Power would own and operate the solar array. Later, in response to a

question asked by Ledbetter, he said the company is planning to build about 20 arrays in Kansas, including another array in Leavenworth County, which is also a part of the multicounty area served by the co-op.

Wylie told the commissioners that the array in Jefferson County would supply enough electricity to power 169 homes and in reply to a question posed by Luck, he said the electricity generated by the array would stay in the general area.

The commissioners heard Wylie say that Today's Power would like to have the array up and running by next June and that if the array wasn't operating by then, the delay would add \$200,000 to the cost of the project. He really didn't elaborate.

In his answer to another question asked by Ledbetter, Wylie said the panels comprising the array would be situated six or seven feet off the ground. And in his answer to still another question from the commissioner, he said the array, once in place, would be dismantled in 25 years unless the lease for the property were to be renewed.

Community Development Director Kelly Woodward, who started working for the county earlier this month, told the commissioners that she was leaning toward a Conditional Use Permit as the means by which

FreeState Electric would be allowed to install the array but that the co-op was thinking more along the lines of a simple building permit. The former would require far more time to obtain.

The commissioners encouraged Woodward and Planner II Erin George to alter the Regional Planning Commission's normal schedule for meetings (the fourth Monday of the month at 7p.m.) if need be to speed up the CUP application process for FreeState Electric. By law, the cases to be heard at the body's meetings must be advertised at least 20 days in advance.

If the county ultimately decides to give FreeState Electric either a CUP or a building permit for the proposed solar array, it would be located just to the north of the co-op's Oskaloosa substation.

Steve Foss, FreeState Electric's chief executive officer, also was on hand for the meeting.

MDC comments —
Director Kelly Woodward is new to the job of "community development." Is she foot dragging the installation? She lives at privately owned Lake Dabinawa which is legally more akin to a country club than a "community." Has the cooperative started entry level apprenticeship jobs to train installation crews? Hiring out-of-state is not popular here.

LETTERS

(Continued from page 17)

Discomfit. I was about to be impressed with the speed and efficiency of the USPS, but then learned the timeline was slower than I thought. Perhaps the work of the new Postmaster. Love your work product. I'll send the envelope back to you with what it should contain as soon as I am finished reading it. I'm sure you wouldn't reject a modest donation to the cause of political journalism. Very good work!

I'm still working from home, and will likely be here until May or June of next year, depending on the progress of the pandemic. Hopefully we will all still be healthy then, and proceed with our little rat lives undeterred and unmolested.

RK2

Jeff City, MO

Sept. 23, 2020

(Postcard, handwritten both sides.)

Thank you for the work of art and for educating me about spiritualism.

About spiritualism, see:
www.lilydaleassembly.org

I've been there, but never paid for a reading.

(Continued on page 20)

THE POPULAR POT POLICY PALM CARD

3 X 5 CARD, PASTEL
COLORS
INK STAMPS,
& GLITTER
HANDMADE



LETTERS

(Continued from page 19)
On the other hand I have
bought a Ouija board.

NH₂
Louisville, KY

Produced by "Holy
KoolAid" on YouTube

See at:
<https://tinyurl.com/y2gexpn8>

Oct. 2, 2020

(RFK "Round Robin" return
envelope from Discomfit
mailing containing \$100
check with "Keep it up!"
handwritten in memo.)

AH
New York City, NY

(Continued on page 21)

ECONOMIC POLICY PALM CARD

3 X 5 card stock, pastel with ink stamps

The figures listed below come from the Census Bureau, IRS tax statistics and the Economic Policy Institute. People chuckled at the "drunk rich pigs" image. My opponent once quietly quipped to me in 2017 he might make that top 1%.



**CLEAN
OUT OUR
STATEHOUSE**

KANSAS STATEWIDE

TOP — 12,126
HOUSEHOLDS
AVERAGE
\$1,034,676/yr.
NET INCOME

BOTTOM 99%
1,113,304 HOMES
2018 per capita income
\$30,757
NO HEALTH INSURANCE
UNDER 65 — 10.9%

VOTE ELECTION 2020
HOUSE 47th DISTRICT
MICHAEL CADDELL

TAX

1%

WARS

JEFFERSON COUNTY

TOP — 76
HOUSEHOLDS
AVERAGE
\$386,576/yr.
NET INCOME

BOTTOM 99%
7,524 HOMES
2018 per capita income
\$29,258
NO HEALTH INSURANCE
UNDER 65 — 9.3%

TIME FOR A CHANGE
TREASURER
TRISTAN CADDELL

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PALM CARD

3 X 5 card stock,
Pastel with ink stamps

Approximately
550

Cards were distributed
on vehicle wind-
shields, coffee count-
ers, gas stops and to
wary strangers most
without masks.
Dangerous work.



DEMOCRATIC
COOPERATIVE

INDEPENDENT
FOOD & ENERGY

41 VOTE FOR THE KS
GREEN NEW DEAL

MUNICIPAL OWNED
SOLAR & WIND
UTILITY BONDED

VOTE
MICHAEL CADDELL
Election Day
Nov. 3rd, 2020

HOME GROWN
LOCAL FOOD
NO STATE TAX

LETTERS

(Continued from page 20)
MDC reply — Your last book is amazingly profound and cannot be read in a hurry. The culture of the oppressed embodies resistance and like your writing style — demands more than "a little respect." Hat tip to Aretha.

Oct. 11, 2020

Hello Mike,

The issue of Discomfit is truly remarkable, incendiary in the deepest sense, going to the core of Resistance no matter what the

(Continued on page 23)

TIME FOR A CHANGE

ELECT
MICHAEL CADDELL
47th DISTRICT
House of Representatives
ELECTION DAY — 2020

KANSAS STATEWIDE	TAX	JEFFERSON COUNTY
TOP — 12,126 HOUSEHOLDS AVERAGE \$1,034,676/yr. NET INCOME		TOP — 76 HOUSEHOLDS AVERAGE \$386,576/yr. NET INCOME
BOTTOM 99% 1,113,304 HOMES 2018 per capita income \$30,757 NO HEALTH INSURANCE UNDER 65 — 10.9%		BOTTOM 99% 7,524 HOMES 2018 per capita income \$29,258 NO HEALTH INSURANCE UNDER 65 — 9.3%
VOTE ELECTION 2020 HOUSE 47th DISTRICT MICHAEL CADDELL		TIME FOR A CHANGE TREASURER TRISTAN CADDELL

LEGALIZE

REGULATE

LICENSED
COMMERCIAL
LIQUOR STORE
DISPENSED
SALES TAX

COOPERATIVE

FOOD & ENERGY

MUNICIPAL OWNED
SOLAR & WIND
UTILITY BONDED
HOMEGROWN
LOCAL FOOD
NO STATE TAX

PAID POLITICAL AD.—MIKE'S CAMPAIGN, P.O. BOX 14, VALLEY FALLS, KS. 66088, TRISTAN CADDELL, TREASURER

AD (3 Columns X 9") PLACED LAST WEEK BEFORE
ELECTION DAY, 2020 IN BOTH COUNTY NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS

(Continued from page 21)
odds, or as Wm. Blake expressed it: "keeping the Divine vision in times of trouble." I love the selection of graphics, so well reproduced, and the insertions of bits in the "deluxe" edition.

I enclose \$100, for ten copies, which I will circulate to contacts here and abroad (Britain and France for sure) ...

As for the \$\$ you need for RFK, why don't you launch a modest appeal to listeners? If you do, I will chip in of course ...

Onward!
Fred
Kansas City

Oct. 29, 2020

*Informative, decorous
greeting card about NY
lake ice fishing with spears
[circa 1900] photograph of
8" painted wooden fish
decoy with leather tail fin.*

Michael,

My longtime friend (Name withheld — MDC) sent me "Discomfit." Which I love! Little Blue Books meet the wonderful Walter Crane! So here's encouragement for the next issue. And I'm returning your envelope for re-use.

My formative years were spent in Independence, KS, and in Lawrence. I'm sorry not to have met you sooner.

Betsy
Bethesda, MD

**REVOLUTIONARY
HANDY WALLET SIZE
SURVIVALIST READING GLASS**
"KEEP A FIRE STARTER IN THE REAR!"



2020

See also: Kansas House of Representatives elections, 2020

General election

General election for Kansas House of Representatives District 47

Incumbent Ronald Ellis defeated Michael Caddell in the general election for Kansas House of Representatives District 47 on November 3, 2020.

	Candidate	%	Votes
✓ 	<u>Ronald Ellis</u> (R)	71.5	8,007
	Michael Caddell (D)	28.5	3,198

BP Incumbents are **bolded and underlined**. Source

BALLOTPEdia.ORG

Total votes: 11,205

RADIO FREE KANSAS
 424,545 LISTENS—3,378 SHOWS
 EST. AUG. 2007, DEC. 11, 2020 AUDIT
 BLOGTALKRADIO NETWORK

CALL-IN TALK NEWS

FROM

Jefferson County, KS

646 716 8652

NOON WEEKDAYS
 CENTRAL TIME ZONE, USA

NOW AVAILABLE FREE
"CALL THE CANDIDATE"
 SERIES 2020—8/1 HOUR EPISODES

Internet Archive:

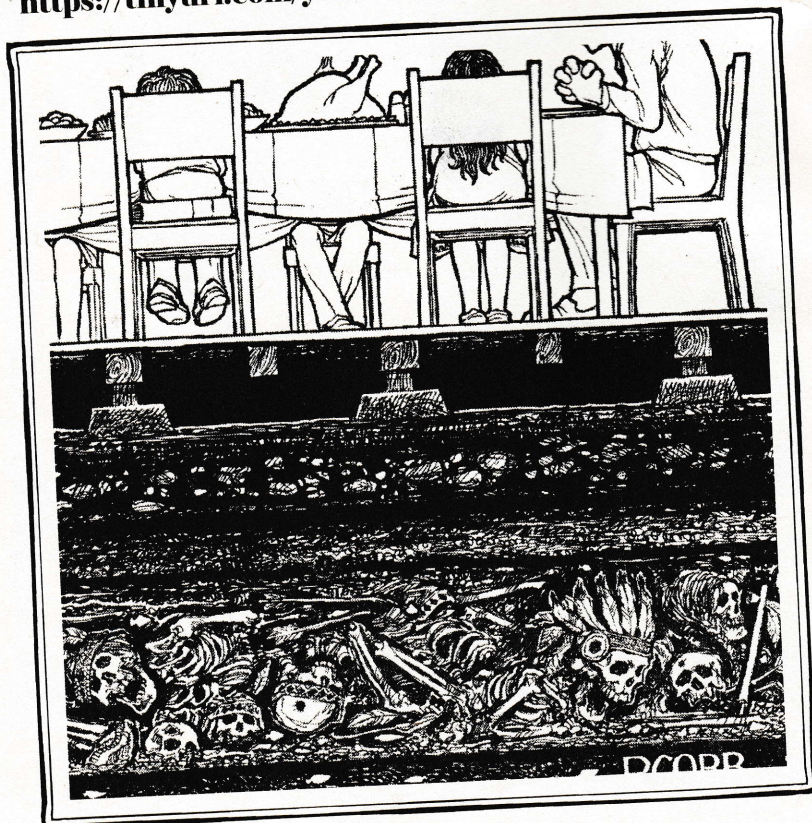
<https://tinyurl.com/y3cbuwr5>

**THE
 DEAR LEADER'S
 CREED**



If you can't dazzle them
 with brilliance, baffle
 them with bullshit.

- W. C. Fields





**D
E
M
O
C
R
A
T
I
C**

LEGALIZE



REGULATE

**I
N
D
E
P
E
N
D
E
N
T**

**VOTE FOR THE
GREEN NEW DEAL**

**LICENSED
COMMERCIAL
LIQUOR STORE
DISPENSED**

**ELECT
MICHAEL CADDELL
47th DISTRICT
KANSAS**

**House of Representatives
ELECTION DAY — 2020**